



BOSTON RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
CHIEF
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1967.

1967

BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council :

COUNCILLOR T. W. NORTH, J.P.

Clerk of the Council :

D. E. SMITH, LL.B.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health :

G. HIRD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

G. G. POPPLEWELL, F.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

P. McPHUN, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

G. FOX, M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 30th April, 1967).

B. J. SAUNDERS, M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 6th August, 1967).

C. E. THOMSETT, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 5th June, 1967).

R. LYALL, M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 30th October, 1967).

Senior Clerk : C. H. CUTHBERT.

Shorthand Typist/Clerk : Mrs. J. GOMM.

Medical Officer's Clerk : D. DADY.

BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
126 London Road,
Boston, Lincs.
Telephone : 3271.

To the Chairman and Members of the Boston Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

It gives me much pleasure to present to you the Annual Report for 1967 which sets out in detail the various aspects of Public Health throughout the Rural District and the work carried out by your Health Department.

The estimated home population in the Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate for 1967 was 22,980 which is an increase of 180 compared with the previous year, and 250 above that of 1965. The corresponding figures of 5 years and 10 years ago were 22,630 and 22,090 respectively. The natural increase, namely the number of births minus deaths was 122.

There were 326 births in the Rural District during 1967, 4 less than the previous year. Of this total, 12 were illegitimate, a reduction of 10 compared with the previous year. The Crude Birth Rate was 14.2 and this figure multiplied by the Correction Factor supplied by the Registrar General to enable comparisons to be made with all other areas, gave a Corrected Birth Rate of 14.1. This is lower than the overall Birth Rate for England and Wales which was 17.2.

There were 4 Still Births during 1967. This gave a Still Birth Rate of 12.1 which was less than the National figure of 14.8.

During 1967 there were 7 infant deaths, one more than in the previous year. 3 of the deaths occurred in the first 4 weeks of life and were undoubtedly associated with various factors and hazards that occur in pregnancy. The Infant Mortality Rate for the Rural District was 21.5 as compared with 18.3 for England and Wales.

The Perinatal Mortality Rate which is a combination of Still Births plus Deaths during the first week of life was 18.2 which was considerably less than the National figure which was 25.4.

During the year there were 204 deaths. This was 23 less than the previous year. This gave a Crude Death Rate of 8.9 and a Corrected Death Rate of 9.0. This compared very favourably with the figure for England and Wales which was 11.2. 22% of deaths were due to Malignant Diseases and by far the highest single site was Cancer of the Lung, and the 11 cases that occurred were all males. Heart and Circulatory Disease in all forms accounted for 101 deaths which is virtually 50% of the total. Respiratory diseases such as Pneumonia and Bronchitis etc., accounted for 26 deaths. There were only 3 deaths from motor accidents compared with 5 the previous year.

Measles with 409 cases was the most prevalent of all the infectious diseases, followed by Chicken Pox with 326. Dysentery with 63 cases was more than double the previous year's total of 30. There were 25 cases of Scabies notified, five times the amount which occurred in 1966. This of course was not a local problem as it happened all over the country.

There were 8 families involved, and of the 25 persons infected there were 10 school children, 6 pre-school children and 9 adults. This condition is almost invariably spread by person to person contact and it is very likely that this accounted for the fact that most of the persons infected were children.

For the 9th successive year no cases of Poliomyelitis were notified. This justifies the importance of immunisation, and only emphasises the need for a continuing high rate of immunised children within the area. The figures for immunisation in the Rural District as far as pre-school and school children were concerned were extremely high, and one can only hope that it will be maintained.

The number of new council dwellings completed during the year totalled 76, which was 38 more than in 1966. During the same period 127 houses were built by private enterprise. This gave a combined total of 203 compared with 151 in 1966. As in previous years a good deal of work was done by the Inspectors in connection with Housing Grant work and 214 visits were made in this connection. 38 Standard Grants and 4 Discretionary Grants were approved in 1967, a total of 42. Not only were private houses improved, but the Council again continued to improve their own houses, and during the year 90 were provided with various amenities including bathrooms, wash-hand basins, hot water supplies, internal W.C.'s etc.

During the year 131 visits were paid to the various caravan sites in the Rural District. The two main sites are at Frampton Fen and Wyberton, the one at Frampton Fen being purely a holiday site whilst the other is a permanent one.

Further progress was made during 1967 with the Wyberton Sewerage Scheme, and the Ministry's Inspector visited the Rural District in July to hold an enquiry. The need for the scheme was quickly acknowledged but alternative suggestions as regards the Scheme were proposed by the Ministry. Difficulties in acquiring land for such much needed schemes, delays at Ministry level, the Government's financial restrictions, all contribute to the hold up of Sewerage schemes and the Rural District often have to bear the brunt of much unjustified criticism for the delays that inevitably occur.

Detailed reports of Refuse Collection and Disposal, Meat Inspection and Food Hygiene, Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act are given later in the Report.

The Rural District, as far as the vital statistics are concerned compared very favourably with the National figures for England and Wales. The Council are progressive in their outlook and in many ways are well ahead of many neighbouring Rural Districts as regards Housing, Sewerage Schemes etc.

1967 was a satisfactory year for the Department and with a full staff all are to be congratulated on their customary high standards, and this also includes the clerical staff who do the important administrative aspect of Public Health.

I should also like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest in all aspects of our work, and to the Council for their support during the year. To all the other Chief Officers and their staffs, I acknowledge with thanks the assistance given to the Health Department during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. HIRD,

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1968.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	84,398
Home Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year estimate for 1967)	22,980
Number of dwellings on rate book	7,727
Average number of persons per acre ... ..	.27
Number of rated dwellings per acre ... ..	.092
Average number of persons per square mile	173
Estimated product of a penny rate	£1,935
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1967	£477,509

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The social conditions of the district have remained unchanged during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate					171	143	314
Illegitimate					5	7	12
Total Live Births					176	150	326

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude) 14.2

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (adjusted) 14.1

Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births 3.7%

Still Births.					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate					2	2	4
Illegitimate					—	—	—
Total Still Births					2	2	4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 12.1

Total Live and Still Births					Male	Female	Total
... ..					178	152	330

Infant Deaths.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate					4	3	7
Illegitimate					—	—	—
Total					4	3	7

Infant Mortality Rates :—

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	21.5
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	22.3
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	2	1	3

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births ... 9.2

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	1	1	2

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births 6.1

Perinatal Mortality					Male	Female	Total
Still Births and Deaths under 1 week					3	3	6

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births ... 18.2

Maternal Mortality

Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	...	Nil

Deaths					Male	Female	Total
All causes	...	...	...	...	111	93	204
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (crude)	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.9
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (adjusted)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.0

OBSERVATIONS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

In the following comments on the Vital Statistics both the crude birth and death rates are given together with the rates after adjustment by the Comparability Factors. These factors have been supplied by the Registrar-General and are intended to afford a means of adjustment to allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas. Consequently, the adjusted birth and death rates enable a more accurate comparison to be made with the corresponding rates in other areas.

It is also emphasised that undue significance should not be attached to rates which are based on very small numbers (e.g. infant mortality) and that a comparison of such rates with those in other areas, or with earlier years may have little statistical significance.

POPULATION :

The Registrar-General's estimate of the home population for the mid-year 22,980, shows an increase over the figure for the previous year which was 22,800. The number of births for the year exceeded the number of deaths by 122.

BIRTHS :

There were 326 Births in 1967 in the Rural District. This was 4 fewer than in the previous year. This total was made up of 176 males and 150 females. The Crude Birth Rate was 14.2 whilst the Adjusted Rate was 14.1. The Rate for England and Wales was 17.2. There were 12 illegitimate births, 10 less than in 1966. The illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births was 3.7. The figure for 1966 was 6.7%.

STILL BIRTHS :

There were 4 Still Births during the year, one more than in 1966. The Still Birth Rate was 12.1 which was considerably less than the figure for England and Wales which was 14.8.

MATERNAL MORTALITY :

There were no deaths from this cause in 1967.

INFANT MORTALITY :

There were 7 Infant Deaths during the year, one more than in 1966. The Infant Mortality Rate was 21.5 compared with the National figure of 18.3.

PERINATAL MORTALITY :

This comprises the total of Still Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week. During 1967 this numbered 6 which gave a Perinatal Mortality Rate for the Rural District of 18.2 compared with the figure for England and Wales which was 25.4.

Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates in Boston Rural District, 1953-1967.

Year	No. of Births	Crude Birth Rates	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rates	Infant Mortality Rates	Average 5 Years		
						Birth Rates	Death Rates	Infant Mortality Rates
1953	375	17.7	226	10.7	16.0	16.9	10.6	23.7
1954	403	18.9	212	9.9	22.3			
1955	356	16.5	228	10.6	25.3			
1956	329	15.0	224	10.2	30.4			
1957	366	16.6	252	11.4	24.6			
1958	372	16.8	186	8.4	13.4	15.0	9.1	19.9
1959	297	13.3	206	9.2	30.3			
1960	362	16.1	208	9.3	22.1			
1961	327	14.6	195	8.7	12.2			
1962	326	14.4	227	10.0	21.5			
1963	366	16.1	239	10.5	13.7	15.1	9.9	15.8
1964	351	15.4	220	9.7	11.4			
1965	348	15.3	237	10.4	14.4			
1966	330	14.5	227	10.0	18.2			
1967	326	14.2	204	8.9	21.5			

DEATHS : .

There were 204 deaths from all causes in the Rural District during 1967. This was 23 fewer than in 1966. The resulting Crude Death Rate was 8.9 and the Corrected Death Rate was 9.0.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT IN 1967.

No.	Cause of Death					Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	1	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	3	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	11	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	5

No.	Cause of Death	Males	Females
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	10
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16.	Diabetes	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	23
18.	Coronary disease, angina	27	14
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	—	—
20.	Other heart disease	9	8
21.	Other circulatory disease	4	2
22.	Influenza	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	7	7
24.	Bronchitis	7	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	3	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	2	2
32.	Other defined, and ill-defined diseases	7	9
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
34.	All other accidents	—	1
35.	Suicide	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		ALL CAUSES 111	93
		<hr/>	<hr/>

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :

Facilities are available at the Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln, for the bacteriological examination of samples of water and ice cream.

The laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London, continue to carry out chemical examinations of water samples on behalf of the Department.

AMBULANCE SERVICE :

This service is provided and maintained by the Holland County Council through the Ambulance and Transport Department.

SCHOOL MEDICAL AND MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES :

These services are administered by the Holland County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :

The provision and administration of Treatment Centres and Clinics is delegated to the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council.

The treatment of Scabies and similar complaints is carried out at Ferry House Clinic, London Road, Boston, which is under the control of the County Council.

NURSING IN THE HOME :

The home nursing service is under the control of the Local Health Authority.

HOSPITALS :

All Hospitals in the area are administered by the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee for the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

Details of the facilities available in Boston and District are as follows :—

Boston General Hospital—Acute General.

London Road Hospital, Boston—General, Orthopaedic and Traumatic Surgery and Ophthalmic.

White House Hospital, Fishtoft—Infectious and Chest Diseases.

Wyberton West Hospital, Boston—Medical and Maternity.

Woodlands Court, Kirton—Aged Sick.

Freiston Hall Children's Hospital—Sick Children.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47—RE- MOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION :

No action was taken by the Council under this Section.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the total number of infectious diseases notified and confirmed during the year and the numbers admitted to hospital.

Notifiable Diseases during the year, 1967.

Disease.	Cases Notified	Confirmed Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital
Chicken Pox	326	326	Nil
Dysentery	63	63	1
Erysipelas	1	1	Nil
Food Poisoning	2	2	Nil
Infective Hepatitis	1	1	Nil
Measles	409	409	Nil
Pneumonia	11	11	2
Scabies	25	25	Nil
Scarlet Fever	2	2	1
Whooping Cough	19	19	Nil

Measles was the most prevalent of all the infectious diseases with 409 notified cases, with Chicken Pox second with 326 cases. The 63 cases of Dysentery was the highest number of cases for 4 years. Each case was visited by the Public Health Inspector and the family advised regarding the best hygiene methods to prevent the spread of the disease to others. During the year the Inspectors made 260 visits in connection with the investigation and control of infectious disease. This was double the number of visits carried out in 1966.

Infectious Diseases Notified 1958-1967.

Disease	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958
Chicken Pox ..	326	170	133	170	124	460	96	133	206	123
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	63	30	—	4	243	16	5	14	79	—
Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or typhoid fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	1	1	—	1	1	3	1	2	14	3
Food Poisoning ..	2	1	1	—	5	1	3	5	7	8
*Infective Hepatitis	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Measles ..	409	52	641	108	347	172	564	15	395	14
Meningococcal infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	11	15	9	10	21	7	11	6	9	14
Polio myelitis :										
Paralytic ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	1
Scabies ..	25	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	5	7
Scarlet Fever ..	2	19	18	12	1	7	48	59	14	14
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	19	12	29	85	7	3	63	15	4	32

* Not notifiable before 1965.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

Table I.

	Males		Females		Total
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
(a) Number of cases on Register at beginning of year	45	7	47	8	107
(b) Number of cases notified for first time in year	2	—	—	—	2
(c) Number of cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Number of cases added to Register other than by formal notification	—	1	1	—	2
(e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year	5	—	5	—	10
(f) Number of cases remaining on Register on 31st December, 1967 ...	42	8	43	8	101

SUMMARY OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1958—1967.

TABLE II.

Year	Cases on Register			Notifications each year			Deaths		
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total
1958	91	15	106	7	5	12	1	—	1
1959	96	15	111	14	—	14	2	—	2
1960	102	15	117	10	1	11	—	—	—
1961	102	14	116	5	—	5	2	—	2
1962	97	15	112	6	2	8	—	—	—
1963	93	16	109	9	2	11	—	1	1
1964	89	16	105	2	1	3	2	—	2
1965	91	15	106	5	1	6	1	1	2
1966	92	15	107	6	1	7	4	—	4
1967	85	16	101	3	1	4	6	—	6

TUBERCULOSIS :

Cases notified within the Rural District come under the control of Dr. A. M. Forrest, Chest Physician, South Lincolnshire Area.

The following table gives details of new cases notified and deaths occurring during the year.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Over 65	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
Total	2	1	1	—	4	2	—	—

TREATMENT OF SCABIES :

Facilities for the cleansing of persons requiring treatment are provided by the Holland County Council, the cost of such treatments in respect of persons other than school children being charged to the District Council. Should medical practitioners request treatment for patients, details of notifications are immediately passed to the County Council thus ensuring that infected persons receive early treatment.

25 cases were notified as occurring in the Rural District during the year, treatment for 13 patients being provided by their medical practitioners, whilst the remaining 12 cases were treated at Ferry House Clinic.

IMMUNISATION :

All immunisation work within the District is under the jurisdiction of the Holland County Council. Below are given details of the number of children immunised during the year :

Diphtheria :

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	164
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
						—	300
Number of Booster Injections	689

Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough :

Under 5 years	Nil
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Combined Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and

Tetanus :

Under 5 years	294
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The percentage of children immunised against Diphtheria in relation to the child population is as follows :—

Under 1 year 53.2%

The immunisation of children continued as in previous years and compared favourably with past figures. The number of “ Booster ” injections against Diphtheria was 689 compared with 668 in 1966.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX :

Primary Vaccinations :

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
2-4 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
15 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
							<hr/> 216

Re-vaccinations :

1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
2-4 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
5-14 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
15 years and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
							<hr/> 37

The number of Primary Vaccinations was 216 compared with 244 the previous year. The number of re-vaccinations, however, totalled 37 compared to 8 in 1966.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS :

The following information has been supplied by the County Health Department.

Number of persons who completed a course during
the year 377

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

I am indebted to Mr. R. J. Cameron Stobie, Engineer and Manager of the South Lincolnshire Water Board, for the following report on the Rural Water Supply.

The total quantity of water delivered to the Sutterton re-pumping station from the Bourne and Pinchbeck sources for the year ending 31st December, 1967 was 503,797,000 gallons of which 209,212,000 gallons of this supply passed through the bulk supply meters near Boston to the East Lincolnshire Water Board.

The net quantities supplied to Boston Rural District and East Lincolnshire Water Board for 1966 and 1967 are as follows:—

	Boston Rural District	East Lincs. Water Board
1966	276,107,000 gallons	198,637,000 gallons
1967	294,585,000 gallons	209,212,000 gallons

These figures indicate that there was an increase in demand in the rural district of approximately 6.7% over the previous year and a gross 5.7% increase in the quantity supplied to the Sutterton Pumping Station.

The system of regular water sampling in the area, for bacteriological analysis, confirmed the maintenance of the supply to a high standard.

During the year under review the length and sizes of new mains laid in the various parishes within the Rural District are indicated in the following tables.

Parish	2"	3"	8"	Total Yards
Brothertoft 	—	85	—	85
Freiston 	—	148	—	148
Fosdyke 	311	—	—	311
Old Leake 	—	—	223	223
Wyberton 	128	176	—	304
	439	409	223	1071

A further 3,617 yards of existing 6", 4" and 3" main were relaid in the area to accommodate highway improvement works and to replace severely externally corroded pipeworks.

The following table gives the figures for the respective parishes of properties supplied :—

Parish	1966	1967	Variation
Algarkirk	179	180	+1
Amber Hill	143	143	0
Bicker	270	269	-1
Benington	185	187	+2
Brothertoft	140	137	-3
Butterwick	199	198	-1
Fishtoft	448	479	+31
Frampton	461	468	+7
Freiston	404	411	+7
Fosdyke	171	175	+4
Harts Grounds }	26	30	+4
Pelhams Land }			
Kirton	1,128	1,133	+5
Leverton	245	245	0
Old Leake	533	534	+1
Sutterton	410	411	+1
Swineshead	629	665	+36
Wigtoft	182	180	-2
Wrangle	486	486	0
Wyberton	1,027	1,075	+48
Outside Area	14	14	0
	<u>7,280</u>	<u>7,420</u>	<u>+140</u>

Water Analysis.

72 samples of water drawn from the mains at various points in the District were submitted by the Public Health Department for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln. The results showed the water to be satisfactory.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

HOUSING.

Slum Clearance.

Action continued during the year in dealing with unfit houses under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957. No clearance areas were represented during the year.

The following table shows the current position relative to action taken :—

Unfit dwellings demolished since 1st January, 1956 ...	267
Dwellings subject to Demolition Orders but not yet demolished	21
Dwellings subject to Closing Orders	27
Dwellings subject to Undertakings not to re-let for human habitation	55

Overcrowding.

No cases of overcrowding were reported during 1967.

Improvement Grants.

Every encouragement is given to property owners who wish to improve their houses with the aid of a discretionary or standard grant. During the year 42 formal applications for improvement grants were received, 38 in respect of standard grants, and 4 discretionary grants ; all of which were approved. The number of visits to properties in connection with this work was approximately 214.

The amount approved for payment in respect of standard grants during 1967 was £6,632, an average of £174 10s. 6d. per house improved. The amount approved for payment in respect of discretionary grants was £1,358 12s. 10d., an average of £339 13s. 2d. per house improved.

In the case of standard grants, the amenities provided were :—

Fixed Bath	34
Shower	—
Wash Hand Basin	35
Hot Water Supply	32
Water Closet (Internal)	37
Food Store	15

Applications for improvement grants continue to be received. The Council also continued to improve their own houses under the Act and during the year 90 houses were im-

proved. The amenities provided were : bathrooms, wash hand basins, hot water supplies, internal water closets. Connection of drainage to the public sewer was made in some instances and in others drainage to new septic tanks provided.

A total of 132 houses were improved under the Act.

Summary of new dwellings completed during 1967.

Council Houses.	Fishtoft	...	...	...	...	...	40
	Freiston	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Kirton	...	...	...	...	...	34
							<hr/> 76
Private enterprise houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
							<hr/> 203

Remedy of Housing Defects.

Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936							Nil
Statutory Notices under the Housing Act, 1957,							
Section 9	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Action under Sections 16 and 17, Housing Act, 1957.

Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Undertakings not to re-let accepted	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dwellings demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Demolition Orders revoked following repairs	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Reference was made in last year's annual report, to a holiday caravan site at Frampton Fen. I am able to report that this site has been operated and maintained in a satisfactory manner during the year. The site licence was amended to increase the number of caravans permitted on the site to forty-two, and at no time during the period the licence was in operation has there been a vacant plot on the site, proving the value of such an amenity in the District.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the permanent caravan site for twenty caravans at Wyberton, as it has been necessary on a number of occasions to draw the licensee's attention to contraventions of his licence conditions. All the blame cannot be placed on the licensee's shoulders as he has had some rather difficult tenants to handle and at the end of the year only half the site was occupied.

The problem of the itinerant trader who occupies a caravan and suddenly appears on an unlicensed site or lay-by is still with us. There appears to be no solution other than to move them on, probably to another unlicensed site either within the District, or over the boundary to an adjoining district. Consequently, there is no way of controlling these people to ensure that satisfactory standards of hygiene are maintained and to obviate the necessity for ratepayers to complain to the Department relative to the siting and nuisance caused by these caravanners. I feel that the answer to this problem could be solved by providing a number of small seasonal sites for this kind of caravanner in different parts of the District.

There has been an increase in the total number of licensed caravan sites in the District from seventy to seventy-two. The majority of these sites are in respect of single caravans only.

There are no resident gypsies in the Council's District.

DRAINAGE.

The policy of providing main drainage in the Council's area has continued.

The position at the end of 1967 was as follows :—

Parish				Number Connected.	Number not Connected
Kirton and Frampton	...	...	...	831	34
Wyberton	...	...	...	889	5
Fishtoft	...	...	...	1026	20
Leverton	...	...	...	98	4
Freiston	...	...	...	142	12
Old Leake	...	...	...	108	8
Butterwick	...	...	...	143	33
Swineshead	...	...	...	273	102

Connections to the sewer in the parish of Swineshead by the owners of property on the line of the sewer have been much slower than has been the case in other parishes and at the end of 1967, eleven months after the sewer was available to receive connections, there were 102 properties not connected out of a total of 375 on the line of the sewer.

During the year the scheme for the sewerage of parts of Wyberton, referred to in previous reports, was prepared and submitted to the Ministry. An enquiry was held by a Ministry Inspector on 12th July and an inspection of the area concerned made. The Ministry accepted the need for the scheme to proceed on public health grounds but put forward alternative suggestions for the ultimate disposal arrangements for dealing with the effluent from this area, consequently this has caused further delay and by the end of the year no works had commenced. However, this has not prevented serious complaints

of drainage difficulty and public health nuisance being received in the Department. The dykes in the area are absolutely foul and, at times, particularly during the warm weather, the whole area in West End Road stinks of foul sewage. It is therefore hoped that this work will proceed very quickly to abate this serious public health nuisance.

Regarding the Sutterton and Wigtoft schemes, certain difficulties are being experienced in obtaining land for the siting of the sewage disposal works, and this, together with the Government's temporary period of restraint on capital expenditure, is likely to delay the scheme.

The small sewage scheme at Sutterton Drove, Amber Hill was commissioned in February to serve twenty-two Council dwellings, where serious drainage difficulties had existed for many years.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

This service continues to provide a regular weekly collection to the whole of the District and requires the use of five fore and aft tipping vehicles. A side loading vehicle of 10 cubic yard capacity is held in reserve and can be brought into use in case of breakdown of one of the regular vehicles and is also used on special collecting "jobs" such as trade and other refuse.

The Council's first fore and aft tipper purchased in 1956 is due for replacement in 1968 and, as previously referred to in the 1966 report, with the changing nature of refuse with much greater volume as against weight, the opportunity will arise to replace this vehicle with one having a larger carrying capacity with more efficient compression gear, thereby increasing the amount of refuse which can be collected per vehicle load and reducing journeys to the disposal point.

Few complaints have been received relative to the collection service and again I wish to record my appreciation to all the employees engaged on the arduous task which they carry out in an efficient and pleasant manner.

The refuse disposal tip at Slippery Gowt Farm has been in use for almost two years and during this period 3,452 loads of refuse, weighing approximately 8,800 tons have been deposited there. This represents some 60,336 cubic yards of refuse which, if tipped without consolidation, in layers six feet deep, would cover an area of just over six acres. However, in order to raise the level of the land to the height of the surrounding sea banks, the refuse has been tipped in two separate six foot layers and with maximum consolidation of the refuse by using a Weatherill 12 HB mechanical loading shovel, weighing $6\frac{3}{4}$ tons fitted with special Vacu-lug tyres to consolidate and level the refuse, the total surface area actually used is approximately

three quarters of an acre. This is a considerable saving in tipping space and as the total area of land available is 100 acres, it is safe to assume that at the present rate of tipping there is sufficient area to last for 100 years.

Apart from this saving in tipping space, with maximum consolidation of the refuse, flies and vermin are conspicuous by their almost complete absence, this is probably due to compaction causing a rapid rise in temperature within the tip and quicker bacterial breakdown in the mass. Bearing in mind that soil is not available as covering material, the results so far have been encouraging.

Experiments have continued with the use of sewage sludge as a covering material. Lagoons with banks 18-inches high some 80 feet x 20 feet in area have been constructed with refuse on top of the completed tipping. After the refuse has been allowed to settle these lagoons are filled with liquid sewage sludge, part of the liquor soaks into the refuse to a depth of not more than twelve to eighteen inches, the remaining top liquor dries off leaving the semi-dried sludge behind. This completely seals the tip surface for the time being, but it will have to be broken up before, in due course, dried sewage sludge can be added to the top followed by a twelve to fifteen inches thick layer of soil. These experiments are continuing and, apart from assisting in providing some covering material for the tip, also solve to some extent the sludge disposal problem at the sewage disposal works.

The following table gives detailed information in respect of the numbers and types of vehicles used and work done, the second table shows costs of the service :—

REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE STATISTICS.

Round No.	One	Two	Three	Four	Five
Vehicle No.	LDO 55	VLO 646	YJL 771	RDO 838	JJL 727
Purchased	1957	1962	1964	1960	1956
Capacity—cu. yds.	25	25	25	25	16/18
Engine Type	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel
Average miles per gall.	10½	8½	7	9	10
Average miles per week	210	170	135	185	210
No. of men in team	2	4	5	3	2
Refuse bins on round	1322	2053	2783	1393	938
Average bins per man per day	132	102	111	93	117

	1967	1966	1965	1964
Estimated cost of Refuse Collection Service	£25,919	£24,296	£21,983	£19,372
Cost of emptying per bin	61/1d.	60/0d.	55/3d.	49/6d.
Cost per bin per collection	1/2½d.	1/2d.	1/1d.	11¾d.
Average period between emptyings	7 days	7 days	7 days	7 days

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

This service continued to be carried out using two S. & D. 1100 gallon cesspool vehicles. A third vehicle is held in reserve in case of breakdown of either a pail or cesspool emptying vehicle in order that the services can be maintained. Cesspool effluent is still disposed of at the Frampton Sewage Disposal Works.

The sewerage of the centres of the main villages in the District is temporarily held up due to the economic "freeze", even so, it should be appreciated that when all sewerage has been completed there will still be approximately 35% of houses left which will always have to rely on cesspool drainage. This part of the District's population should have the best possible service and it is hoped that perhaps during 1968 the "free" emptying period for cesspool emptying might be reduced from twelve to nine months. There will, as occurs each year, be periods when the two vehicles engaged on this service will be hard pressed, particularly during the late winter and spring, possibly resulting in delays in the service. Relief could be given if a second disposal point were established on the north side, possibly at Fishtoft Sewage Disposal Works. It might then be possible to give an even better service to these ratepayers who have to rely on cesspool drainage systems.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE STATISTICS.

Vehicle No.	RJL 542	BJL 573 C
Purchased	1961	1965
Capacity	1100 galls.	1100 galls.
Engine Type	Diesel	Diesel
Average miles per gallon	12	12
Number of men in team	2	2

	1967	1966	1965	1964
Premises given free service	1624	1696	1757	1700
Chargeable emptyings	445	534	598	575
Vaults emptied—chargeable	33	36	34	32
1000 gallon loads removed from cess-pools, vaults, etc. ...	1713	2067	2022	1892
Vehicle loads removed from Housing Estate Sewage Plants ...	249	327	323	250

Estimated total expenditure of the Cesspool Emptying Service in 1967—£4,996.

Estimated income from chargeable work—£1,196.

Estimated net cost of the Service—£3,800.

SANITARY PAIL EMPTYING.

As a direct result of efforts made over the past few years to modernise Council and private properties with the aid of Housing Grants, pail closets are gradually being eliminated. By the end of the year there were 630 premises requiring the service which, following the review in October, 1966, is now being carried out using one vehicle only, and still maintaining a regular weekly collection. A further review is to be carried out in the Spring and it is hoped that it might be possible to make a further saving on this service during 1968.

The cost of the service is shown below and it will be noted that the annual cost of emptying each pail is £6 3s. 10d. This figure will rise as more pails are eliminated as it will still be necessary to operate the service for those remaining and, as these properties are usually isolated, the amount of time and travelling involved is not reduced by anything like the same proportion. Although the number of pails requiring emptying dropped by 45 during the year, the mileage travelled and time involved on the service is practically the same.

It is anticipated that further pail closets will be dispensed with as the Council's policy of modernising their Council houses continues where this primitive form of sanitary accommodation still exists. In addition, owners of property will be encouraged to modernise their houses with financial assistance under the Discretionary and Standard Grant schemes. There

will still be a number of properties, principally in the outer lying parts of the District, which because of age or situation the owners do not consider modernising an economic proposition, or perhaps the property is one which has a very limited life and not worth spending too much money on, or it could be some other building not necessarily a dwelling house, i.e. factory, etc. In such cases the Council might consider adopting an active policy to utilise the provisions of Section 47 (4) of the Public Health Act, 1936. This section authorises local authorities, upon application from the owner of a "building", to provide a water closet in substitution for a closet of any other type and to agree to pay to him a part not exceeding one half of the expenses reasonably incurred in effecting the replacement. It is not necessary for the drainage to be to a public sewer in this instance. The average cost of providing a water closet, and appurtenant drainage to a new cesspool is approximately £120. If the Council were prepared to offer a contribution towards the cost of effective replacement it might be possible to persuade owners of buildings where pail closets exist more readily to provide a water closet thereby reducing the number of pails in the District and ultimately the cost of collection.

PAIL EMPTYING SERVICE STATISTICS.

Vehicle No.	OJL 988
Purchased	1960
Capacity	1000 galls.
Engine Type	Diesel
Average miles per gall.	13
Average miles per round	250
No. of men in team	2
No. of pails on round	630
Average pails per man per day	63

	1967	1966	1965	1964
Estimated cost of Pail Emptying Service	£4,148	£3,734	£4,650	£4,150
Cost of emptying per pail	123/10d.	110/8d.	116/-	92/3d.
Cost per pail per collection	2/4d.	1/9d.	1/9d.	1/5d.

SALVAGE.

As a result of alterations and adjustment in the rate of bonus payment to those employees engaged on refuse and salvage collection there has been a substantial increase in collection and disposal of waste paper, cardboard, etc., during 1967, which has been of financial benefit to the Council and the employees. This extra effort has also resulted in less paper finding its way into the refuse vehicle thereby leaving more space for actual refuse storage reducing to some extent travelling time and also less paper to dispose of at the tip.

Details of materials sold during 1967 are as follows :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Cardboard	44	6	3	441	0	0
Mixed Waste Paper	123	0	3	970	15	7
Newspaper	46	3	3	415	13	9
Textiles	7	9	0	119	12	4
	221	0	1	1947	1	8

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD PREMISES.

Regular inspections of premises governed by the Food Hygiene Regulations have been made during the year.

	No. of premises	No. fitted to comply with Regulation 16	No. to which Regulation 19 applies	No. Com- plying with Regulation 19
Bakehouses	8	8	8	8
Bakery Transfer Depots	3	3	3	3
Fish Shops	10	10	10	10
Grocers and General Stores	58	58	57	56
Premises selling wrapped sweets and ice cream only	10	10	—	—
Egg Packing Stations	1	1	1	1
Cafes	6	6	6	6
Factory Canteens	3	3	3	3
Butchers Shops	11	10	11	10
Butchery Factories	2	2	2	2
Licensed Clubs	8	8	8	8
Public Houses	49	49	49	47
Hotels	3	3	3	3
Slaughterhouses	6	6	6	6
Butter Factories	1	1	1	1
Ice Cream Depot	1	1	1	1
Game Store	1	1	1	1
Vegetable Packing Stations	2	2	2	2

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are six licensed slaughterhouses in the District where animals are slaughtered for human consumption. Slaughtering takes place on every weekday. The quantity killed on some of the days is very small, the main slaughtering days are Monday and Wednesday.

Regular inspections of all slaughterhouse premises are made and at least twice a year a veterinary officer also inspects. Apart from minor items, the general standards required under the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 have been maintained.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The regular inspection of meat at the six slaughterhouses in the District is given high priority by the Inspectors and 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered in the Rural District for human consumption continued to be maintained. Work outside normal hours was necessary, although it is kept within bounds due to the reasonable co-operation of the butchers.

The Council continued their policy of not imposing charges for meat inspection during the year.

There is a slight increase in the number of animals slaughtered and inspected compared to the previous year. The number of pigs found showing evidence of localised tuberculosis decreased and the number of beef carcasses found to be affected with cysticercosis dropped considerably. The quality of animals slaughtered generally was excellent.

Meat inspection figures for 1967 are as follows :—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (as notified)	1226	—	4	4621	6188
Number inspected	1226	—	4	4621	6188
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	1	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	184	—	—	34	1087
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.	15.08 %	—	—	0.76 %	17.64 %
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	96
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.08 %	—	—	—	1.55 %
Cysticercosis :					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Total weight of meat and offal condemned—3 tons 10 cwts. 7st. 7lbs.					

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

The undermentioned foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption were suitably disposed of :—

- 3 x 6 lb. Tins Ox Tongue.
- 3 x 12 oz. Tins of Lambs Tongue.
- 5 x 16 lb. Tins Corned Beef.
- 36 Fish Cakes.
- 5 Packets Garden Peas.
- 3 Packets Braised Steak.
- 4 Packets Sliced Beef.
- 3 Packets Rissoles.

- 1 Packet Pork Sausages.
- 10 Packets Steak and Kidney and Chicken Pies.
- 1 Packet Fish Fingers.
- 1 Packet Potato Croquettes.
- 1 Packet Cod Fillets.
- 1 Sponge Cake.
- 1 Eccles Cake.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT.

Re-inspections in respect of premises registered earlier and registrations received during 1967 were carried out, details are as follows :—

Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	2	41	7
Retail Shops	—	47	—
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	1	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	5	1
Fuel storage depots ...	—	—	—

Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace.

Class of Workplace	No. of persons employed
Offices	118
Retail Shops	136
Wholesale departments, warehouses ...	14
Catering establishments open to the public	9
Canteens	7
Fuel Storage depots	—
TOTAL ...	284
Total Males	167
Total Females	117

Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises—24.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM.

Routine inspections in respect of storage of petroleum spirit were carried out involving 135 visits to premises. Only one contravention of note was found relating to storage of petroleum mixtures.

The Council's Petroleum Officers attended meetings of the West Midland Petroleum Administration Group, and received valuable information from the quarterly bulletins issued by them, particularly regarding possible changes in storage conditions.

Number of licensed premises for storage :

Petroleum Spirit	215
Petroleum Mixtures	8
Carbide of Calcium	2

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

One business only comes under this heading, a licensed Knacker's Yard where animal matter is processed. Frequent inspections have been made and the premises are maintained in a reasonable condition considering the type of business carried on. New premises with modern equipment are in course of construction, the actual building has been completed and the equipment is being installed, due to delays in delivery of equipment it is not anticipated the new plant will be operational until some time in 1968.

RODENT CONTROL.

The duties of rodent control are carried out by the Cleaning Services Foreman. Treatment for the destruction of rats and mice at business premises is chargeable. Treatment at private dwellings is undertaken without charge.

INSECT PEST CONTROL.

The Council controlled refuse tip was treated regularly with insecticides to discourage fly breeding. Wasps nests were destroyed without charge when they constituted a nuisance to householders.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 TO 1959.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of
the year 1967 for the Rural District of Boston in the County
of Holland (Lincs.).

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—**Inspections** for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	1	1	nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	77	8	nil	nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	nil	nil	nil	nil
Total	86	9	1	nil

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were Instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Unreasonable temper- ature (S.3)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Inadequate ventila- tion (S.4)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	nil	1	nil	nil	nil
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective	nil	1	nil	nil	nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Other offences against the Act (not includ- ing offences relating to outwork)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Total	nil	2	nil	nil	nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

Outwork.

(Sections 110 and 111.)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)

NIL OUTWORKERS.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS CARRIED OUT
BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS, ADDITIONAL TO
THOSE MENTIONED ELSEWHERE IN THIS REPORT.

Housing Acts	314
Caravan Sites	131
Stables and Piggeries	5
Nuisances	169
Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning	260
Drainage	502
Dyke Pollution and Overflowing Cesspools	44
Insect Pests	63
Control of Refuse Tips	224
Public Cleansing Services	18
Slaughterhouses	43
Food Premises	106
Ice-cream Sampling	40
Meat Inspection	1112
Miscellaneous	88

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